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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
30 July 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Significant Developments in the Latin  
American Countries on the Counterinsur-  
gency Critical List



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3. Guatemala

a. Guerrilla activity has declined sharply  
during the last two weeks, probably as a result of

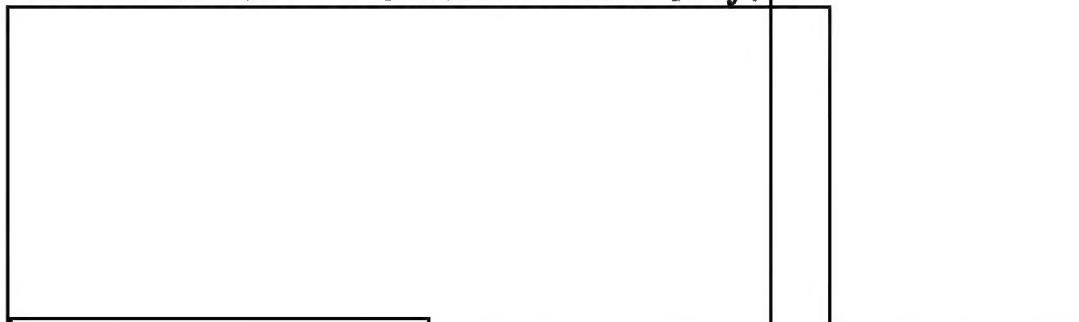
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the Peralta government's success in eliminating a guerrilla camp and killing 11 rebels in a pitched battle in eastern Guatemala on 9 July.

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it is likely that guerrilla activities will be resumed once the rebels have regrouped their forces and have acquired new recruits and assistance. That the Castro regime still considers Guatemala to be one of its prime targets for subversion was demonstrated last week in public statements made by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro. Both leaders singled out Guatemala and Venezuela for special mention as countries where "heroic fighters" were advancing the "popular revolution" in Latin America.

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5. Venezuela

a. Communist guerrilla activity increased in western Venezuela during the past several days. Guerrilla units of the Communist-led Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) overran three small towns in Falcon State where the army and air force have staged strong counter guerrilla operations since early this year. On 28 July a guerrilla group took temporary control of Zazarida and fled with arms and ammunition. During the 25 July attack on Pueblo Nuevo, a band of sixty armed men reportedly overpowered police and occupied the town for several hours. Earlier a guerrilla band raided a police station in Curimagua. According to press reports, these attacks resulted in at least two guerrillas and two government guards killed and several wounded.

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